

## **BELGIUM – NATION BRIEFING**

Newly formed after a revolt from the Netherlands in 1830, Belgium leapt to the forefront of the Industrial Revolution. With coal readily available, blast furnaces and railways quickly spread across the country, but the nation lacked many of the natural resources found by other colonial powers, particularly copper. Also, while the military swelled during the Franco-Prussian War (1870-71), they are unable to compete territorially with the great powers of Europe, leaving trade and diplomacy their main means of leverage.

Recently, King Leopold II funded the exploration of the interior of Africa as a means to find new trading partners and resources. Along with the International African Association, new inroads have been made towards colonizing Central Africa, but the Berlin Conference is critical to maintaining this new imperial destiny.

### **Conference Goals:**

- Exclusive control and access to the Congo region of central Africa
- Access to gold and diamond deposits found in southern Africa
- Territorial expansion so you'll be taken seriously by other European powers



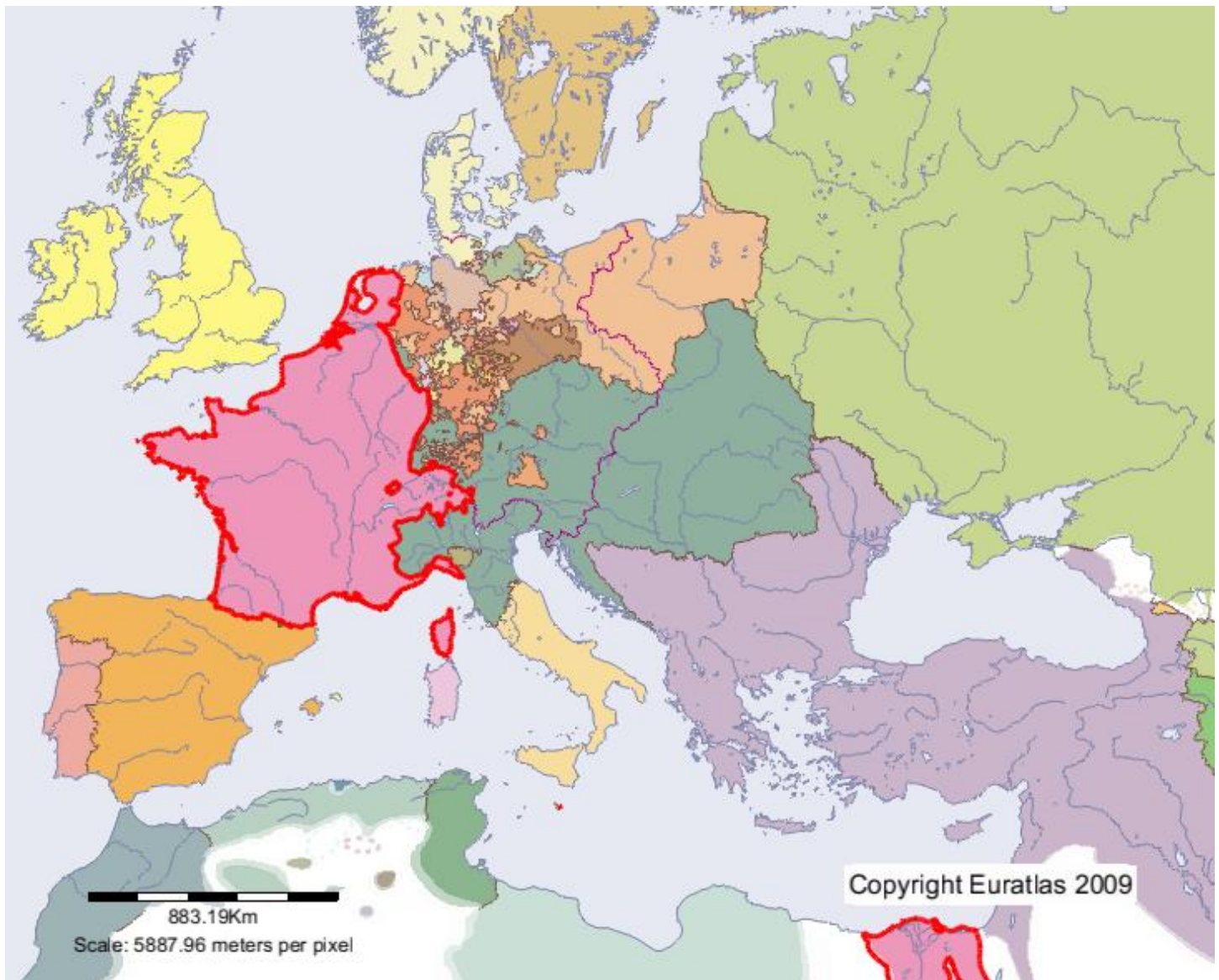
## **FRANCE – NATION BRIEFING**

Following the defeat of Napoleon, the Bourbon Restoration, and various civil wars, France has emerged during the Third Republic. Now with a relatively stable government, industrialization has reinvigorated the nation's powerful navy and army. This in turn has allowed for France to expand colonial possessions, particularly in Southeast Asia, but now Africa remains. Despite years of conflict with its eternal neighbor, Great Britain, your nation sees the Berlin Conference as a means to cement your political position in the region, and to offset the growing power of a newly minted Germany.

Africa is not a new venue for French involvement. The northern nation of Algeria has been critical to French expansion and attempts by Napoleon III were made to make the nation a model of French/Arab cooperation. Now is the chance though for this influence to expand even further, establishing a Francophile sphere of influence across the Mediterranean Sea.

#### Conference Goals:

- Expansion of French control along the Mediterranean region and western coast of Africa
- Access to trade goods such as rubber, cotton, tropical hardwoods, palm oil, and cocoa.
- Access to gold and diamond deposits found in western and southern Africa



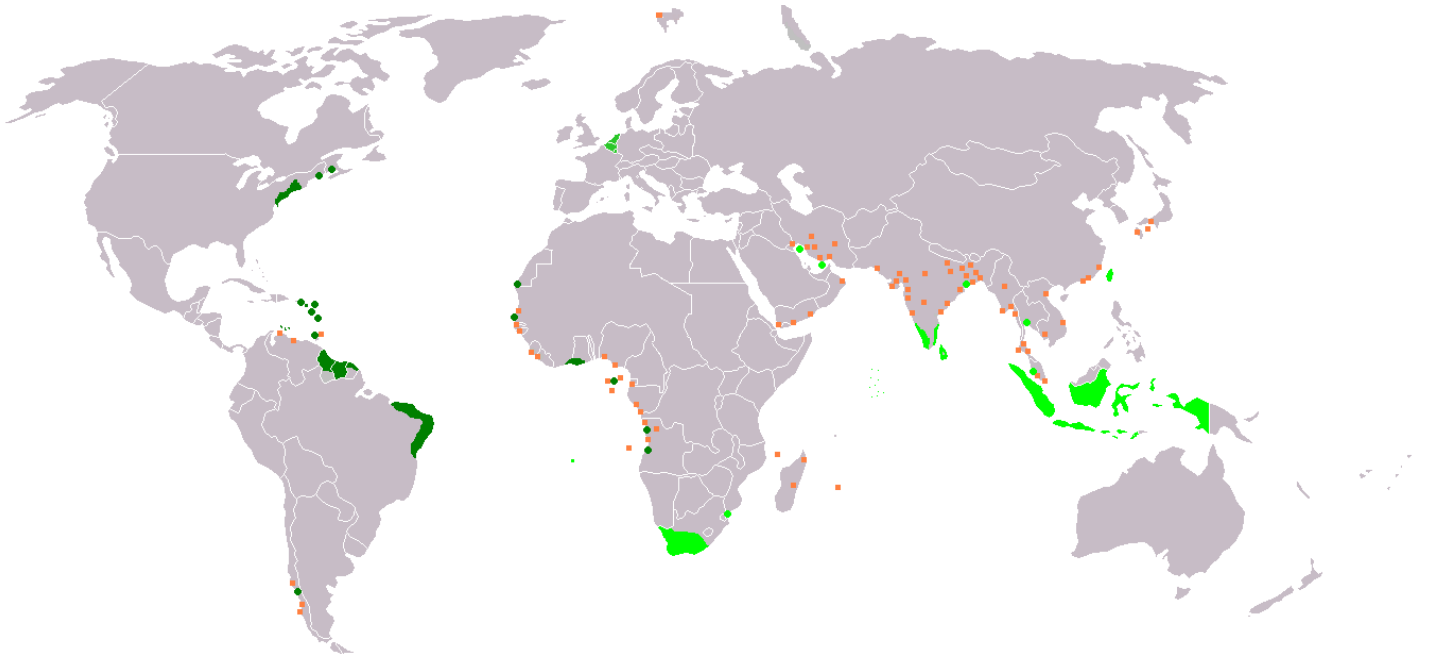
## NETHERLANDS – NATION BRIEFING

Despite setbacks and invasions during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Netherlands has emerged as one of the richest European states in the world because of their embrace of the cultivation system in its East Asian colonies. This renewed wealth has brought the nation back from the brink of bankruptcy caused by the Napoleonic invasions and wars in Java. This growth

in turn has spurred industrialization in the nation, but the lack of indigenous natural resources makes expansion into Africa even more important. With a focus on the Bantu-speaking areas of Southern Africa, mining operations have already developed and the Berlin Conference is critical to defending these interests.

**Conference Goals:**

- Complete and total control over Southern Africa
- Removal of British control from Southern Africa
- Access to natural mining resources such as iron, copper, diamonds, and gold.

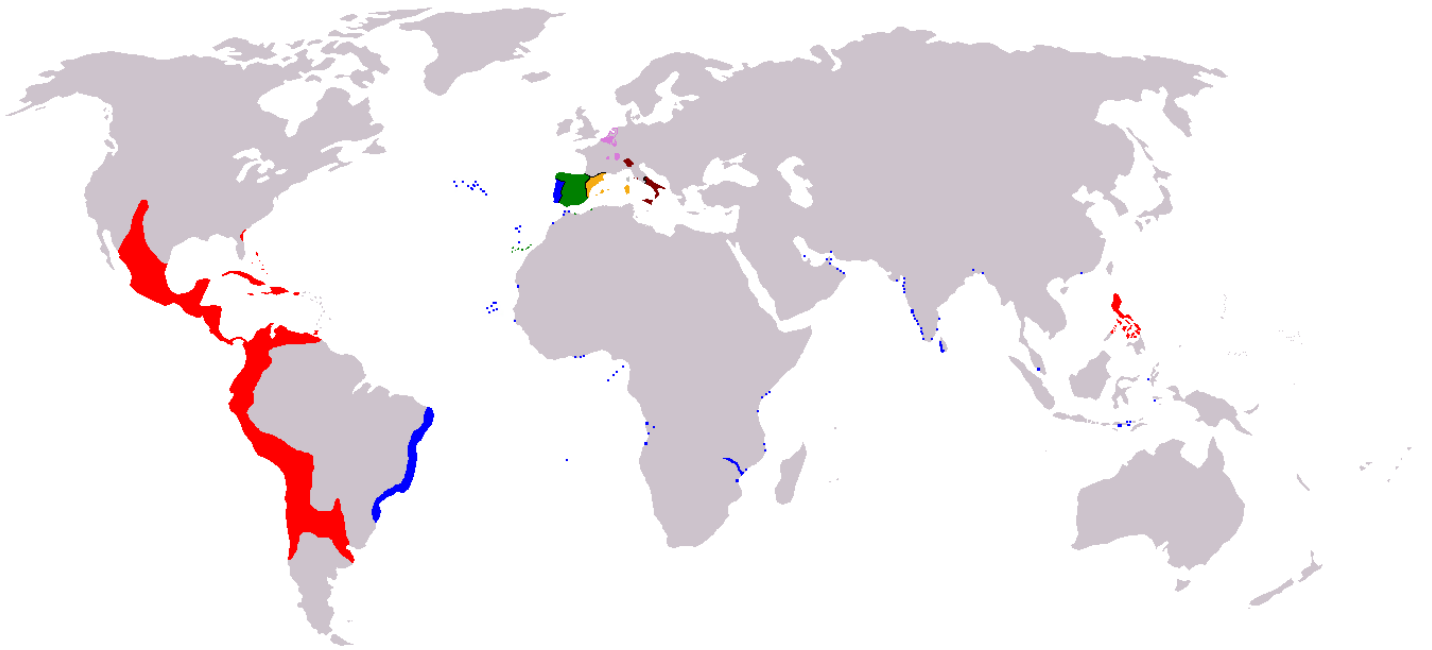


# PORTUGAL – NATION BRIEFING

Originally, one of the first great colonial powers, Portugal sent explorers across the world, claiming Brazil and establishing entrepôts across the world. Now though, a slow decline has overtaken the empire. Beginning with the invasion of Napoleon's forces in 1807 and the declaration of independence of Brazil by Pedro I, Portugal now seeks to restore its colonial power and Africa can do just that for them. Seeking to expand colonial outposts in Africa to full nation-state status, the Berlin Conference will allow your nation to once again compete with other European powers.

## **Conference Goals:**

- Expansion of colonial outposts bordering the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Guinea.
- Control of coastal areas near Madagascar
- Claim to natural resources such as coffee, diamonds, iron, copper, and magnesium.



# GREAT BRITAIN – NATION BRIEFING

The reign of Queen Victoria has been glorious for the British people. After the loss of the American colonies to rebellion, your nation utilized their dominance of engineering and industry to facilitate the creation of an empire that is now unmatched. You are the most powerful of all the military and economic powers. Your empire now expands so far, that it is said that the sun never sets on the British Empire, and Africa is the last remaining you seek to control. The British already have a presence in Southern Africa where colonists have clashed with Dutch-born Africans known as Boers, but you want even more. Funded and supported by visionaries like Cecil Rhodes, the imperial ambitions of Great Britain and the British Empire can fully be realized.

## Conference Goals:

- Claim all of Southern Africa to gain access to precious minerals like gold, bauxite, and diamonds.
- Claim the entire coastal area of western Africa to claim trade goods like peanuts, sisal twine, and rubber, as well as minerals like gold and magnesium.
- Connection of your northern colonies in Egypt to colonies along the Nile River.

